



John Ronald Sanchey

January 29, 1947 - March 10, 2025

John Ronald Sanchey, age 78, of White Swan, Washington passed away on date, in Wapato, Washington. John was born on January 29, 1947 in Toppenish, Washington. He was the son of George Lee Sanchey and Matilda (Winnier) Sanchey. John was an enrolled member of the Yakama Nation. He was baptized in St. Mary's Catholic Church in White Swan, Washington. He attended all of his school years in White Swan. John joined the Army and served a tour in Vietnam until he was honorably discharged in 1972. John married Patricia Graf in 1971 and they were later divorced. He then lived with his loving partner, Nancy Hitchcock, for many years.

In his youth, John worked for Bill and Rosie Eneas running cattle in Pisco Meadows and at Cow Camp. He also helped them with their racehorses, traveling to the race tracks in Washington, Oregon, and California. Later in life he worked as a log scaler for the Yakama Nation - BIA, a log truck driver for Dennis Balch, he was a heavy equipment operator on major repairs to the Satus Highway, and even a Bear Guard in Alaska. He was a cowboy's cowboy. He loved to travel on the Indian rodeo circuit. He worked as a chute boss and participated in the wild horse race event. John had dozens of rodeo friends in the Northwest and in Canada. In his travels he often played drums in a small western band at various venues.

John was outgoing and loved meeting people and was always ready to sit down and visit. No one was a stranger to him. He loved to tease and came up

with nicknames for many of the family members. He enjoyed western movies, country music, and dancing. John loved his Corvette, old classic cars, and enjoyed working on them.

Remaining to cherish John's memory are his son, John Ronald Sanchey Jr; brothers Roger Jerry (Peggy) Sanchey, Carrol Anthony Sanchey, and William Joseph Sanchey; sisters Mary Louise (Gary) Varner, Sandra Lee (Sanchey) Palmer, Denise Ann (Michael) Lettig, and Angelic Marie (Jerry) Hert, plus dozens of nieces, nephews, grand nieces, grand nephews, and a few great grands.

Preceding John in death are his loving partner of many years, Nancy Hitchcock; his father and mother George and Matilda Sanchey; brothers George Paul Sanchey, Cecil Lee Sanchey, and Anthony Earl Sanchey; and sisters Lavina Sanchey and Katherine Francis (Sanchey) Wolfsberger.

A rosary will be held at Heggies Funeral Home in Toppenish on Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 11 AM. There will be an overnight wake at the family home in White Swan (441 Signal Peak Rd, White Swan) following the rosary. A Catholic service will be held at the family home on Thursday, March 13, 2025 starting at 10 AM. Interment will be at the Yemowat family cemetery in Ahtanum immediately following the church service. Military honors will be conducted by the Yakama Warriors Association.

Cemetery Details

Yemowat Cemetery

4801-5213 McCullough Rd
Yakima, WA 98903

Previous Events

Rosary

MAR 12. 11:00 AM (PT)

Colonial Funeral Home
228 S Alder St
Toppenish, WA 98948-1622
(509) 865-3222

Funeral Service

MAR 13. 10:00 AM (PT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
40 W. White Swan Road
White Swan, WA

Tribute Wall

MG

“ Thoughts and prayers to the family! Give my dad a hug and have a few cold ones with him too. Your shenanigans, orneriness and laughter will be missed.



MIKAL GADLEY - March 18, 2025 at 07:14 PM

EL

“ Emma Jane LaVallie lit a candle in memory of John Ronald Sanchey



Emma Jane LaVallie - March 13, 2025 at 07:36 PM

MA

“ Rest in peace John you're reunited with Nancy once again you was always a great friend my condolences to everyone left behind
❤️🔥❤️🔥❤️🔥❤️🔥❤️🔥❤️🔥❤️🔥❤️🔥



mary - March 13, 2025 at 01:51 AM

BO

“ Bernice G Owens lit a candle in memory of John Ronald Sanchey



Bernice G Owens - March 12, 2025 at 04:55 PM

SW

“ *Shasta Watlamet lit a candle in memory of John Ronald Sanchey*



Shasta Watlamet - March 12, 2025 at 04:18 PM

GN

“ *Gina Northover-Moore lit a candle in memory of John Ronald Sanchey*



Gina Northover-Moore - March 12, 2025 at 04:12 PM

MJ

“ *Maggie S. James lit a candle in memory of John Ronald Sanchey*



Maggie S. James - March 12, 2025 at 02:51 PM